

From: Olivia Venning [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 August 2021 10:58
To: localplans@charnwood.gov.uk
Subject: Charnwood Local Plan 2021-2037 pre-submission draft consultation response

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing in response to the Charnwood Local Plan 2021-2037 pre-submission draft consultation. My name is Olivia Venning, [REDACTED]

Having read the draft myself I feel the proposed plans do not adequately address climate change and do not tackle it with the urgency that is required. Due to the current circumstances we find ourselves in, and the scientific reports and evidence that surrounds this global issue, I feel it is no longer acceptable to ignore the facts and changes that must be made as a crucial part of development planning.

Given the urgency of the climate situation, the following is needed and should be made policy in this plan:

- Any new development needs to be carbon zero and be fit to live and work in as the climate crisis intensifies (we should be preparing housing and local infrastructure for flooding and increased temperatures as the new norm).
- Local renewable energy generation needs to be prioritised, both to decarbonise the UK and for power security as we move away from fossil fuels.

With regards to the wording of the proposed policy, it's easy to see multiple 'get out' phrases that would mean companies involved in development work could continue to have no accountability for their carbon emissions. The policy should have mandatory requirements all stakeholders and businesses involved in initiating this plan; phrases such as 'we will encourage' and 'where viable' should be replaced with 'we will require' and 'planning permission will only be granted if'.

The proposed policy references sustainable construction plans, but again suggests low carbon generation should happen 'where viable' and should make this a mandatory requirement from the offset. Were low carbon or neutral energy generation for new developments applied from the start, this would save money, whereas retrofitting later down the line would be more expensive and carbon intensive.

The proposed policy references sustainable transport as part of areas of new housing and development, however it makes no requirement development to result in a substantial shift away from cars towards public transport and bicycles. Additionally, the council proposed the construction of more car parking, which again encourages the use of cars in highly populated town centres where there should be innovations in public transport and bicycle lanes. If the council continues to make way for an increased car use, air quality will decrease and increase the health risk to the local community and consequently cause strain on health services. As a cyclist myself, I can with confidence say that cycle paths and lanes in and around Loughborough are inadequate, absent and sometimes unsafe. The policy could be thought leading in making major improvements to cycle lanes and schemes that would encourage people to want to use bicycles.

Thank you for your time, I trust that Charnwood Borough Council will take these views and those of others like myself into serious consideration so that the borough of Charnwood can be a brave, innovative and responsive community to persevere and protect the lives of future generations of residents.

Many Thanks,

Olivia Venning